

## **APPENDIX 3 DEAD ANIMAL DISPOSAL**

**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Washington State Department of Agriculture

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Ecology

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Dead animals are defined as all animals that may die or be killed for other than food purposes. The carcass of any dead animal shall be removed and disposed of by burial, incineration or rendering within 24 hours after death. If buried, the carcass shall be placed so that every part is covered by at least two feet of earth (WAC 246-203-120 (3)).
- B. RCW 16.68 states that the livestock that have died or been killed on account of disease need to be placed so that every part is covered by at least three feet of earth at a location not less than 100 feet from any well, spring, stream or other surface waters and in a place not subject to overflow. Any animal found dead shall be presumed to have died from and on account of disease.
- C. In all cases of death from communicable disease, buried carcasses need to be thoroughly enveloped in unslaked lime (lime or quicklime is calcium oxide; slaked lime is quicklime that is chemically combined with water or moist air).

### **II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Responsibility for proper disposal of dead animals (WAC 246-203-120):
  - 1. The owner of the animal when ownership can be determined.
  - 2. The owner of the property on which the dead animal is found, if on private property and ownership cannot be determined for the animal.
  - 3. The county board of health at public expense if found on any street, alley or other public place and the owner cannot be determined for the animal.
- B. The owner of the dead animal who knowingly leaves or causes to be left a carcass or any portions of a carcass within a watershed in such a condition as to any way corrupt or pollute the water supply shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 (RCW 70.54.030).
- C. Food Safety and Animal Health Division, Washington State Department of Agriculture, maintains a list of licensed independent collectors and licensed renderers. For more information on these listings, contact (360) 902-1878. Counties should maintain a list of private contractors who can properly clean up, load, and dispose of this type of solid waste.